GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1433
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2015
Classification of Forests
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the classification of the forests in the country was undertaken in the 1960's;
(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to revise the forest types of the country;
(c) if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether any institution of the Ministry like ICFRE/Wildlife Institute has undertaken any study to find out the changes and if so, the details thereof along with the key findings; and
(e) the action plan to implement the findings?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (e) Champion and Seth revisited the earlier work carried out in 1936 and published 'A Revised Survey of the Forest type of India' in 1968. This work recognized 16 groups of forests in the country. There is no proposal for revision of forest types of India. However, Forest Survey of India, Dehradun has carried out a project on mapping of the forest types for the entire country. The forest types of the States and UTs have been brought out in the form of a National Atlas in the year 2011. The salient findings of the project are as follows:-

(i) About 41.87% of India's forest cover falls in the Tropical Dry Deciduous type group, Tropical Moist Deciduous type group (19.73%) and Tropical Semi Evergreen type group (13.79%)

(ii) Sub Tropical Dry Evergreen type group is the smallest (0.03%) followed by Tropical Dry Evergreen type group (0.13%)

(iii) 178 out of 200 forest types have been mapped. 22 forest types could not be mapped due to various reasons including some limitations of the data used in the study, limitation of ground truthing and in a few cases due to possible disappearance of the forest type of degradation stages. The details of forest cover area under different forest type groups are given in Annexure.

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun has also revisited Forest Types of India in the year 2012-13 to assess the change. The Outcome of the study is in the form of a book title "Forest Types of India: Revisited" published by ICFRE in May, 2013.

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